

July 29, 2010

Three Bills Passed Aim to Rebuild America's Manufacturing Base by Reducing U.S. Trade Deficit and Protecting Against "Unfair" Trade Practices

WASHINGTON, DC-Last night, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) voted in support of several bills that aim to rebuild the American manufacturing base, put the American people back to work, and grow our economy. With an emphasis on creating the high-skill, high-wage jobs of the future, "Make it in America" legislation promotes American competitiveness, innovation, and exports.

"It is no secret that much of our domestic manufacturing base has moved overseas," **said Arcuri**

"Reinvigorating our manufacturing industry will protect thousands of local jobs, empower workers, and help rebuild the economy here at home. The 'Make it in America' strategy will strengthen our manufacturing base and ensure we remain leaders in the world economy."

The three bills passed by the House today represent crucial next steps in the "Make it in America" agenda. *The National Manufacturing Strategy Act (H.R. 4692)* creates a Manufacturing Strategy Board that will develop short- and long-term goals for America's manufacturing industry.

The Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act (H.R. 5156) supports our clean American energy economy by making it easier for companies to navigate foreign market and promoting investments and reducing production costs for these companies.

The End the Trade Deficit Act (H.R. 1875)

rethinks United States trade policy so that we no longer import more than we export.

Arcuri added, "Before we embark upon new trade agreements, we must first look at the consequences of previous trade deals-this isn't about 'free trade,' it's about fair trade. Our manufacturers aren't seeking a handout or asking for any unfair advantage, they are just looking for a level playing field so that they can fairly compete internationally."

Last week, Arcuri voted *for the U.S. Manufacturing Enhancement Act (H.R. 4380)*, a miscellaneous tariff bill (MTB) to help U.S. manufacturers compete at home and abroad by temporarily suspending or reducing duties on intermediate products or materials these companies use that are not made domestically or opposed by domestic producers.

Arcuri also added, "The MTB is an important short-term way to cut the cost of doing business, boost competitiveness, and ultimately preserve and expand manufacturing jobs here at home."

Arcuri has continuously supported policies that protect American manufacturing from unfair trade practices and promote local job growth including:

- On June 29, 2010, Arcuri joined several colleagues in calling on House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Sander Levin to take immediate action on *the Currency Reform and Fair Trade Act (H.R. 2378)*, which has yet to be considered by the committee.

- On March 15, 2010, Arcuri sent a letter to U.S. Department of the Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gary Locke expressing concern over China's ongoing manipulation of its currency and outlined actions necessary to restore fair trade save U.S. manufacturing jobs including the inclusion of China in the Department's bi-annual report on currency manipulation.

- Fought to include "Buy America" provisions in the Recovery Bill to ensure that goods used in infrastructure projects are manufactured here at home from domestic raw materials;

- Sent letters in December 2009 and February 2010 to U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu urging him to reject the \$450 million request for Recovery Bill Funding for a wind farm project in West Texas that plans to use turbines manufactured in China;
- Co-sponsoring of H. R. 2378, the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act, which would prevent foreign trading partners from manipulating their currency to gain an unfair advantage;
- Co-sponsoring of H. R. 3012, the TRADE Act, which would mandate trade pact reviews, establish standards, protect workers and help restore congressional oversight of future trade agreements;
- Co-sponsoring of H.R. 4351, the Buy American Improvement Act, which would close the vague "waiver" process that allows government procurements to avoid buying domestically-produced goods, increase transparency, and create American jobs;
- Co-sponsoring of H.R. 4692, the National Manufacturing Strategy Act, which would require the administration, in consultation with a new Manufacturing Strategy Board made up of 21 industry leaders and stakeholders, to analyze the nation's manufacturing sector and develop a strategy for enhancing U.S. competitiveness and promoting its success in the global economy;
- Voted against the Peru Free Trade Agreement; and,
- In 2007, testified before both the House Ways and Means Committee and the International Trade Commission to advocate for legislation to address China's unbalanced trade practices and highlight the importance of enforcing and strengthening U.S. trade laws.

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